MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2019/2020 SESSION

PEN0065 - ACADEMIC ENGLISH

(All groups)

19 OCTOBER 2019
2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of 10 pages with 2 sections only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions.
3. Write all your answers in the answer booklet.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [30 MARKS]

Text 1 (15 marks)

Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

Studies Show that Hot Weather Brings Out the Worst in Us

1 Have you ever experienced summertime blues? Those who have experienced it may suggest that taking refuge from the heat may help. Multiple studies over the past few decades have indicated that heat exposure can negatively affect people's moods. Hot weather has been linked to increased aggression, violence and higher rates of suicide and unsurprisingly, global warming may make matters worse.

2 A new study in America lends support to this research, and it shows that high temperatures reduce people's emotional well-being. When exposed to warmer weather, survey respondents reported greater fatigue and increased negative emotions, including sadness, stress and anger, and reduced positive emotions, such as joy and happiness. "We see the two strongest effects of heat exposure on respondents saying that they lacked energy or felt tired during the day, as well that they reported increased stress and anger," says lead author Clemens Noelke, research scientist at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University in Massachusetts.

3 The study, published in the journal Environmental Research, relied on survey results from nearly 1.9 million Americans from 2008 to 2013. The researchers analysed these responses along with temperature data for the days participants were interviewed and their self-reported locations. They found negative effects on emotional well-being were especially significant when average daily temperatures rose above 21 degrees Celsius.

4 According to Noelke, extreme outdoor temperatures may force people to stay indoors for extended periods, which can affect their emotional well-being. When people are forced to stay indoor, they are deprived of exposure to natural sunlight and fresh air that can lead to the decrease of serotonin, a brain chemical related to mood and energy. They also have no choice but to withdraw socially from friends who are linked to their favourite outdoor activities.

5 Being limited to indoor activities also gives rise to other issues such as increased television viewing and social media surfing, and consuming more calories than necessary out of boredom. These. in turn, fuel the cycle of depression among them. Common symptoms of this seasonal disorder include feeling depressed most of the day, experiencing low energy levels and irritability and concentration difficulties.

6 Noelke points out that he and his team did not find any differences between how people in southern areas, where temperatures are frequently high in summer, respond to heat in comparison with those living in areas with milder summers in mid-western and northern areas. His team discovers that people in southern areas such as Texas, Arizona or Florida were just as unhappy in response to a very hot day as those living in Michigan or New York. This seems to suggest that even when people have more exposure to heat, it does not necessarily make them any better at adapting to it,

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Noelke says. "That is of course a bit disconcerting," he says, since extreme temperatures are projected to increase because of global warming. As high temperatures become the norm, his findings suggest "daily happiness will be affected and will gradually decline."

7 If you cannot avoid the heat, it may help to imagine something cold. At Ben-Gurion University, Idit Shalev, an assistant professor of psychology in education, and her fellow researchers primed participants with 'cool versus warm temperature' method. In one experiment, they asked 87 participants to touch either a cool or warm therapeutic pad before conducting a computer-based test of their cognitive control. Those who were asked to touch the cool pad performed better on the test. Interestingly, in a second experiment, the researchers found that even having participants look at photos of icy landscapes and imagine themselves being there produced similar effects. The findings showed that exposing participants to coldness or imagery of coldness improved their cognitive control, or self-control.

8 "Coldness is an indicator for alertness and self-control," says Shalev. As her research suggests, she says, "You do not need to be really hungry or really cold or really under pain; it is enough that you have some kind of perception that you are just like in a real state of hunger or pain or cold temperature, and it activates the mechanism for a better self-control." Still, she cautions that more research is needed before this work can be applied to real life. Trying to improve one's self-control is a complicated and difficult endeavour, she says, and cool temperatures can only do that much. "The environment can perhaps support your motivation, but the environment is not a substitute for your motivation; it is some kind of facilitator, but not more than that" she adds.

9 Psychologist from University of Alabama, Josh Klapow said that tempers get shorter as we get hotter, and we are more likely to react angrily to circumstances that would not bother us as much if the weather were cooler. He said that countless incidences or events like random shooting sprees, high medical bills, debates on gun controls and the continuing specter of crimes may have left people emotionally agitated, and *the addition of heat is adding fuel to an already smoldering fire*. He emphasised that it is critical to slow down the anger response. "Take deep breaths, which will modify heart rate and blood pressure, and relax your muscles, which will slow anger response. Finally, repeat a phrase such as 'calm down' over and over until your anger fades", he suggested. Undeniably, anger is a normal part of life. What we do with it, and how we manage it, are the keys to good emotional health especially when it is hot outside.

Adapted from Leung, W. (2016*). Studies show that hot weather brings out the worst in us.* Retrieved from https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/studies-show-that-hot-weather-brings-out-the-worst-in-us/article31468759/

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Part I: True or False (5 marks)
Instructions: *State whether each statement is TRUE or FALSE.*

1. High suicide rates have been caused by global warming.

2. The study that was conducted on 1.9 million Americans shows that the participants' emotional well-being remained unchanged when the temperature increased higher than 21 degree Celsius.

3. People living in the southern areas can easily adapt to high temperatures compared to those living in mid-western or northern areas in America.

4. People's happiness can be decreased by global warming.

5. One's self-control during high temperatures can easily be improved with small effort.

Part II: Comprehension Questions (10 marks)
Instructions: *Answer the following questions in complete sentences.*

1. Based on a study in America, state two conditions that show a decline among respondents who were exposed to warmer weather. (2 marks)

2. How can staying indoors affect people's emotional well-being? (2 marks)

3. i. What are the two experiments conducted by Shalev and what are the results? (2 marks)

   ii. What have both experiments proven? (1 mark)

4. Describe what Klapow means in his statement '*...the addition of heat is adding fuel to an already smoldering fire*' in line 69. (2 marks)

5. What is the last stage in overcoming the emotion of anger as suggested by Klapow? (1 mark)

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Text 2 (15 marks)
Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

Diamonds are a Sham, and It is Time We Stopped Getting Engaged with Them

1 A popular advertisement with the slogan 'A Diamond is Forever' portrays the backdrop of a woman lovingly embraced by a man. Diamonds have always been associated with love, as much as they are associated with wealth. Diamonds have been romanticised, and girls grow up dreaming about that first diamond they will own. The diamond marketers tell you to spend tens, or even hundreds of thousands of dollars for this clear, hard rock. They tell you that if you do not spend your life savings on a ring with one of these tiny rocks, then you must not love her. Nothing could be further from the truth.

2 People propose to their partners through a strange, peculiar rite of passage; they spend most of their savings on a shiny piece of rock. They could invest the money in assets that will compound over time. Instead, they trade that money for a diamond ring, which is not much of an asset at all. As soon as they leave the jeweller with a diamond, it loses over 50 per cent of its value.

3 Americans have been exchanging diamond rings as part of the engagement process because in 1938, De Beers decided that they would like us to. Prior to a stunningly successful marketing campaign in 1938, Americans occasionally exchanged engagement rings, but that was not a common occurrence. Only by carefully restricting the supply, De Beers has kept the price of a diamond high. Countless American men will attest that the societal obligation to furnish a diamond engagement ring to their fiancées-to-be is both stressful and expensive. However, here is the truth – this obligation only exists because the company that stands to profit from it willed it into existence.

4 We have reached a period of time in history where amazingly, due to clever marketing and brilliant advertising, it has become difficult to answer questions as: Is it better to invest in diamonds or in gold? What are the benefits associated with diamonds and gold? How do I compare the true, intrinsic value of diamonds versus the value of gold?

5 In finance, there is a concept called intrinsic value. An asset's value is essentially driven by the value of the future cash that asset will generate. A diamond is a depreciating asset masquerading as an investment. Like a car, a diamond is a depreciating asset since it loses a large portion of its value the second a customer buys it. There is a common misconception that jewellery and precious metals are assets that can store value, appreciate, and hedge against inflation. Although it is not completely wrong, most diamonds acquired through jewellers lose half of their value upon purchase due to the large retail mark-up that is added in stores. This makes diamonds resale value very poor in comparison to the sum spent on purchasing it.

6 In comparison to diamonds, it appears that gold is the safer avenue for investment, despite its recent decrease in value. Because gold is a rare precious metal and is always in limited supply, one who invests in gold has a certain trust that it will appreciate and maintain its value over time. Economists agree that even if the price

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decreases, the underlying value of gold does not change much. This is largely because there is a fixed quantity of gold due to the fact that it is a commodity.

7 When it comes to investing in diamonds, it is essential to bear in mind that the majority of these precious stones may not always be worth your financial investment. The market for diamonds is illiquid, which means it may be hard to sell quickly because of a lack of ready and willing investors or speculators to purchase the asset. Also, diamonds are not fungible or replaceable because it is hard to find similar diamonds due to their varying cuts, colours, grades and sizes. Diamonds also can be synthesised artificially. In contrast, the market for gold is fairly liquid, and gold is fungible. You can trade one large piece of gold for ten small ones like you can trade a ten-dollar bill for ten one-dollar bills. Gold also cannot be artificially produced, and thus has held value for thousands of years. These characteristics make it a feasible potential investment.

8 Thus, it is very clear that a diamond is not an investment. You might want one because it looks pretty or its status symbol to have a 'massive rock', but not because it will store value or appreciate in value. Here is a modest proposal: Let us agree that diamonds are unworthy and reject their role in the marriage process. It is time to admit that as a society, we got tricked for about a century into coveting sparkling pieces of carbon, but it is time to end the nonsense. The difference between gold and diamonds becomes a lot clearer now. Gold is rare, but diamonds are not. Gold has stood the test of time for thousands of years, while diamonds only became a serious jewellery item in the last 75 years. The natural laws of supply and demand dictate gold prices, but they do not set rules for diamonds. Invest wisely to make sure that your investment goes past what meets the eye.

Adapted from Dhar, R. (2013). *Diamonds are a sham and it is time we stopped getting engaged with them.* Retrieved from https://www.businessinsider.com.au/why-diamonds-are-a-sham-2013-

Part I: Contextual Clues (5 marks)
Instructions: *Provide a word or a phrase from the reading passage for each definition below.*

Example: hugged		**(paragraph 1)**	**word: embraced**
1.	unusual	(paragraph 2)	
2.	provide	(paragraph 3)	
3.	tending to decrease in value	(paragraph 5)	
4.	interchangeable with another	(paragraph 7)	
5.	impose or determine	(paragraph 8)	

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Part II: Critical Reading (10 marks)
Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

1. Identify two groups of intended audiences for the passage. (2 marks)

2. Based on the article, state the writer's overall purpose and point of view. (2 marks)

3. What is the general tone of the writer? (1 mark)

4. *Americans have been exchanging diamond rings as part of the engagement process because in 1938, De Beers decided that they would like us to.* (lines 14-15)

   i. What can be inferred from the excerpt above? (1 mark)

   ii. Provide a statement from paragraph 3 to support the inference. (1 mark)

5. State if the sentences below are a fact or an opinion. Justify your answers.

   i. *In finance, there is a concept called intrinsic value.* (line 28) (1 mark)

   ii. *You might want one because it looks pretty or its status symbol to have a 'massive rock', but not because it will store value or appreciate in value.* (lines 54-56) (1 mark)

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 7? (1 mark)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

Part I: Cohesive Devices (5 marks)
Instructions: *Fill in each blank with a suitable transition.*

Example: **(0) Indeed,** the technology can recognise people by comparing their facial features in real time with an image already stored on a 'watch list'.

Automated facial recognition technology has been used in England and Wales over the past two years to identify suspects and to prevent crime. **(0) Indeed**, the technology can recognise people by comparing their facial features in real time with an image already stored on a 'watch list'. Where successful, it has proven to have solved multiple cases that once were hard to resolve, **(1)** _____ tracing missing children, tracking notorious jailbreakers and confirming the identity of crime suspects. **(2)** _____, despite its efficiency in finding facial matches in certain cases, this technology is still regarded controversial, with research showing that it can be inaccurate and discriminatory.

Researchers from the University of Essex measured the accuracy of the technology from six locations in the UK and found that of 42 "suspect matches", only eight were correct, giving an error rate of 81 per cent. **(3)** _____ , police are facing calls to temporarily stop the use of facial recognition software to search for suspected criminals in public as it has proven that the system was likely to break human rights laws. The researchers have found the system regularly misidentified people who were then wrongly stopped. **(4)** _____ , they also warned the public of "surveillance creep", with the technology being used to find people who were not wanted by the courts.

In June 2017 at the UEFA Champions League Final in Cardiff, South Wales Police reportedly deployed facial recognition technology using low-quality images. Shockingly, the system produced more than 2,000 false positive matches. **(5)** _____ its accuracy improved in subsequent deployments over the years, false positive matches still frequently outnumber successful identifications.

Adapted from Ketchell, M. (2019). *Police use of facial recognition technology must be governed by stronger legislation.* Retrieved from http://theconversation.com/police-use-of-facial-recognition-technology-must-be-governed-by-stronger-legislation-111325

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Part II: Modal Verbs (5 marks)
Instructions: *Fill in each blank with a suitable modal verb.*

Example: Unfortunately, it **(0)** **<u>may</u>** not be as safe as previously thought.

Bubble tea, or also known as 'boba tea', is a drink that has grown increasingly popular in many parts of the world. Unfortunately, it **(0)** **<u>may</u>** not be as safe as previously thought. Different versions may include a variety of added ingredients; however, the main components are mostly kept: milk, tea, tapioca pearls and a very large dose of sugar. While the tapioca pearls in the drink contain vitamins, the sugar content alone **(1)** _____ make boba drinkers reconsider keeping the beverage in their diet, health experts warned.

According to a group of health and community organisers, the drink poses extreme risk of obesity and diabetes as it contains almost as much sugar as soda. The campaigners revealed that a 12-ounce serving of boba **(2)** _____ contain about 90 grammes of sugar, 7 grammes of fat and 490 calories. Some flavoured boba milk tea contains sugary syrups, which can contain higher amount of sugar than the plain version.

The highest sugar content per cup was found in a matcha latte. The sugar in one cup of matcha latte was equal to consuming 14 sugar cubes of 5 grammes each. By drinking one cup, a person **(3)** _____ have consumed more than 40 per cent of the daily intake limit of free sugars.

The Consumer Council believes that the bubble tea industry players should improve their formula by reducing the sugar content of drinks and display the nutritional content of drinks clearly on the price list to enhance transparency. Besides, government **(4)** _____ set a ceiling on sugar content limit for reference by the industry. It is highly advisable for consumers to choose beverages that do not contain sugar when purchasing. If healthier alternatives are not available, and you just badly need your boba tea fix, health experts suggest that you **(5)** _____ offer your own modifications when ordering the drink. "Ask for smaller options, less options. You know a lot of these places you can ask for half sugar, quarter sugar, or no sugar."

Adapted from General, R. (2016). *Health experts warn that boba tea is horrible for your body.* Retrieved from http://theconversation.com/police-use-of-facial-recognition-technology-must-be-governed-by-stronger-legislation-111325

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Part III: Types of Sentences (10 marks)
Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

A. Simple sentence
B. Complex sentence
C. Compound sentence
D. Compound-complex sentence

Based on the options above, identify the type of sentence for sentences 1-5.

1. Extra sleep can remedy some of the negative effects of several bad nights of sleep at home by yourself.

2. Sometimes we make logical decisions, but there are many times when we make emotional, irrational, and confusing choices.

3. Behavioural psychology is the study of the connection between our minds and our behaviour.

4. When you make plans for yourself, you are actually making plans for your future self, and it is easy for your brain to see the value in taking actions with long-term benefits.

5. One of the hardest things about improving your life is remembering to practise what you have learned in a moment of temptation, frustration, or hardship.

6. Which sentence below is a complex sentence?
   A. This morning, I had the best nasi lemak for breakfast.
   B. After I woke up, I ate the best nasi lemak for breakfast.
   C. I ate nasi lemak and drank coffee for breakfast in the morning.
   D. This morning, I made nasi lemak for breakfast and brought some to work too.

7. Which sentence below is a compound sentence?
   A. Mima, a house cat, has a big appetite these days, for she is pregnant.
   B. Mima, a pregnant house cat, has an extremely big appetite these days.
   C. Mima, a house cat, has a big appetite these days because she is pregnant.
   D. Mima is a house cat which has a big appetite these days, for she is pregnant.

8. Which sentence below is a simple sentence?
   A. While Ammar was cooking in the kitchen, Aminah helped to set the table for dinner.
   B. In the twilight, Lily could not see clearly who was walking towards her, so she ran quickly into the house.
   C. If I had a lot of money, I would settle all my debts first, and if I had a lot of time, I would travel the world non-stop.
   D. Under the hot blinding sun, Elise walks slowly across the field in the middle of a breathtakingly beautiful island alone.

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9. Combine these sentences to make a logical compound sentence:
   - I work hard every day.
   - I received an award from my employer.

   A. I work hard every day, nor I received an award from my employer.
   B. I received an award from my employer, yet I work hard every day.
   C. I received an award from my employer, for I work hard every day.
   D. I work hard every day, but I received an award from my employer.

10. Which of the following sentences are compound-complex?
   I. Although the price is expensive, the quality of the bag is unquestionable, and it has a high resale value in the future.
   II. The new Proton car X70 is clearly a saviour to the nation's heavy industry, and it has improved the sales of Proton cars in general.
   III. The boy, wandering from room to room, was looking for a familiar face, but he could not find the person whom he was looking for.
   IV. On 26th of October 1973, a baby girl was born to a loving couple from Bukit Piatu at around 1.30p.m. at Malacca General Hospital.

   A. I and II
   B. I and III
   C. II and IV
   D. III and IV

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